

St. Thomas More Church

1439 Springdale Road, Cherry Hill, New Jersey 08003

856-424-3212 • Fax: 856-424-2411

Web Site: <http://stthomasmorenj.org/> • E-mail: stthomasmore@comcast.net

Mass Schedule

Daily Mass: Mon. - Fri. 9:00 AM in the Chapel

Sat. 4:30 PM

Sun. 8:30 and 11:00 AM

Eucharistic Adoration in the Chapel

Mon.—Fri. 9:30 AM—12 Noon



Rite of Reconciliation Saturday

3:00—4:00 PM

In the Chapel

First Fridays after the 9:00 AM Mass

Father Edward Namiotka, Pastor
 Sister Ann Byrnes, RSM, Pastoral Associate for Life Long Faith Formation
 Sister Clare Sabini, FMIJ, Director of Religious Education
 Julie Linn, Music Ministry
 Pat Cannon, Parish Secretary • Marylee Garber, Parish Secretary
 Sheila Tartamosa, Pastoral Associate for Parish Administration



Find us on:
facebook®

Send all bulletin announcements to:
stmsecretary1439@gmail.com by 2:00pm Monday

DIRECTORY

Pastoral Leadership

Parish Trustees
 Jeannine Mc Menamin
 Henry Glover

Christian Life/Education

Bereavement Staff 424-3212
 Consolation Ministry Ann Marie Lento 344-7454
 Jon Llisitski jonll1@comcast.net

Faith & Justice Team Chris Baeckstrom 912-7078
 Hospital Visitors Staff & Euch. Ministers 424-3212
 Intercessory Prayer Ann Vigrass 428-7217
 Knights of Columbus Doug George 609-313-3321
 Marriage Formation Bob & Elizabeth Scarpa 795-1160
 Parish Rel. Ed. Prog. Sr. Clare Sabini 424-3212
 Prayer Shawl Ministry Ann Vigrass 428-7217
 Respect Life Staff
 Rite of Ch. Init. Adults Sister Ann Byrnes 424-3212
 Rosary Ministry Marian Kapischke 424-2053
 Small Christian Comm. Sr. Ann Byrnes
 Spiritual Retreats John Galati 428-7073
 St. Vincent de Paul
 Stewardship Sheila Tartamosa 424-3212
 Welcoming Team Shirley Kane 424-8022

Worship

Altar Servers
 Church Environment
 Ch. Art Environment
 Eucharistic Ministers
 Lectors
 Linen Committee
 Sacristans

Ushers

Social Development
 Bridge Groups

Funsters (over 50 club)
 Parish Festival
 Women's Club

Administration

House of Charity
 Parish Finance Council
 Parish Pastoral Council

Sister Ann Byrnes 424-3212
 Committee
 Committee
 Sr. Ann Byrnes 424-3212
 Dan Miller/ Sr. Ann Byrnes
 Ann Vigrass 428-7217
 Greta Tyrrell 428-2412
 Dom Sacca
 Dave Bongiovanni
 Joe Centonze
 Chico Febus
 Joyce DeMichele 424-4008
 Barbara Cerquitella 795-7323
 Lin Lyon 795-4396
 Committee 424-3212
 Barbara Cerquitella 795-7323
 Lorraine Kennedy 489-0031

Sheila Tartamosa 424-3212
 Robert Crawford 424-3212
 Marie Enny 751-8893

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER, MAY 15, 2022

PARISH MISSION & VISION STATEMENTS

Mission (Purpose)

Through the Sacrament of Baptism, we the Catholic Community of St. Thomas More respond to our call to holiness.

Vision (Goals)

Empowered by Baptism, inspired by the Holy Spirit, and formed by the Word of God and the Sacraments, especially the Eucharist, we live out our Mission by working together:

- To structure prayerful, vibrant, participatory, Sunday worship experiences.
- To provide Life Long Faith formation for all age levels.
- To care for the young, the old, the sick, the hurting and the needy, both inside and outside our parish.
- To promote faith sharing, prayer, support, learning and listening to one another as a model for nourishing and sustaining our faith community.
- To welcome back, with hospitality, those who have left our faith community.

VISITATION AND ANOINTING OF THE SICK

Please call the parish office, 424-3212, if a family member is seriously ill or facing/recovering from surgery and would like to see a priest or receive the Anointing of the Sick. Holy Communion is also available to those who are homebound on an ongoing basis.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Please make arrangements for Baptism in advance through the parish office. Parents and godparents are required to attend a preparatory session.

MARRIAGE

Couples planning to marry will attend a marriage preparation program called Living in Love. Call office for appointment.

RCIA

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults is a process of formation for full initiation into the Catholic Church. It is open to those never Baptized; those baptized in another faith; and Catholics who have not received First Holy Communion and Confirmation.

For more information, please contact Sister Ann Byrnes, RSM, Pastoral Associate, 424-3212 ext. 104.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Grades One through Eight - Sunday 9:30 AM—10:45 AM

PARISH MEMBERSHIP

New members are welcome in our community of faith. Please call, 424-3212, or come to the parish

BULLETIN DEADLINE

Please submit hardcopy and/or e-mail by 2 p.m. Monday.

CATHOLIC GRADE SCHOOL

St. John Paul II Regional School - (856) 783-3088
Principal: Mrs. Helen Persing



Loving God,
You became one with us that we might become one with
You and with one another.
May Your love for us made uniquely visible in Jesus,
teach us how to love one another as He did,
so You can make all things new.
Amen

Prayer for Respect of All Life
Heavenly Father, the beauty and dignity of human life
was the crowning of Your creation. You further ennobled
that life when Your Son became one with us in His
incarnation.

Help us to realize the sacredness of human life and to
respect it from the moment of conception until the last
moment at death.

Give us the courage to speak with truth and love and with
the conviction in defense of life.

Help us to extend the gentle hand of mercy and
forgiveness to those who do not reverence Your gift of
life.

To all, grant pardon for the times we have failed to be
grateful for Your precious gift of life or to respect it in
others.

We ask this in Jesus' Name. Amen

"If my people, who are called by My
Name, **shall humble themselves**, and
pray, and **seek** My Face, and **turn** from
their wicked ways; **then** will I hear from
heaven, and will **forgive** their sin, and I
will **heal** their land." *2nd Chronicles*



Stewardship Corner: 5th Sunday of Easter

Stewards Love Others

"I give you a new commandment: love one another. As
I have loved you, so you also should love one
another." (JOHN 13:34)

"As I have loved you," this is the hard part – Jesus's
love is unconditional; our love usually comes with
strings attached. It is easy to love someone when they
love you back. But it takes the **Stewardship of mercy**
and compassion to love someone when you feel
unappreciated, feel used or feel like your opinion
doesn't matter. It takes courage and the grace of God to
"love my neighbor" when they may be someone you
don't like, someone you don't know or someone that
doesn't look like you.



From the Pastor's Desk

Priestly Vocations

Dear Parishioners,

This year **five** ordinations to the Priesthood for the *Diocese of Camden* are scheduled for May 14th. We congratulate and should pray for: **Paul Abbruscato, Christopher Myers, Logan Nilsen, Cesar Pirateque** and **Stephen Robbins**. *Ad multos annos!*

However, for the next two years there are no scheduled ordinations. It should lead us to ask "why?" I know that it is probably one of the most difficult times for the Sacred Priesthood with all of the scandalous behavior of clergy and hierarchy being made manifest. However, Jesus intended from the earliest days of the Church that there be priests and that they model their lives after Him. Shame on any of us ordained clergy *who do not live up to that call*.

When was the last time that we had a vocation to the ordained priesthood from our parish?

I know that we do not do the "calling"—God *does*. I also realize that we do not have control over how a person who hears the call responds—*free will is always involved*. Yet, I think there are things that can be done to foster vocations that may be present among the young men of our parish:

1. **Continue to pray fervently for vocations to the priesthood.** There are more things accomplished through prayer than we might imagine. We are commanded in the Gospel to "Ask the master of the harvest to send out laborers for his harvest." (Mt. 9:38) We need to pray that those who hear the call of the Lord may have the courage to respond to that call.
2. **Encourage young men to think about the priesthood.** I was asked by someone in high school if I had ever thought about becoming a priest. People told me that they thought that I might make a good priest. I heard many homilies in my home parish encouraging young men to become priests if God is calling them. In a secular, materialistic world there are many things working against a spiritual life or vocation. We need the people of the parish to give some positive reinforcement to the value of priesthood.
3. **Do not discourage people from following the call.** One of the most disheartening things that was said to me when I initially told people that I was going into the seminary to study to be a priest was: "You don't want to do that. It's such a lonely life." This commentary came from a couple that I knew. They were not priests. How did they know so authoritatively that it would be a *lonely* life? I have since known various married couples who suffer loneliness (or even unhappiness). After 35 years of priesthood, I can truly say that I am basically happy each day. While there may be some times of loneliness—I think all people have them—this is not and has not been a consistent characteristic of my life as a priest.
4. **Realize that priests are not perfect.** As the Letter to the Hebrews reminds us: "Every high priest is taken from among men and made their representative before God, to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins. He is able to deal patiently with the ignorant and erring, for he himself is beset by weakness and so, for this reason, must make sin offerings for himself as well as for the people." (Hebrews 5: 1-3) Sometimes young men think that they are not worthy of such a call. **Who is?** Those of us who are ordained priests did not do anything to deserve the "call" from God. We have just followed it, discerned it and accepted it. You don't have to be perfect to be a priest (but we **do** have to strive for holiness and to become more Christ-like every day!).

We need priests especially to celebrate the Eucharist, to forgive sins in the sacrament of Penance, to anoint the sick and dying—to be Christ's presence in the world. Please pray that priests will come from our parish and throughout the diocese.

Fr. Ed Namiotka, Pastor

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER, MAY 15, 2022

Ministry Schedule for May 21/22

	Presider	Music	Extraordinary Minister	Lector	Altar Server
4:30 PM	Fr. Namiotka	Mena/Choir Julie	Sr. Agnes	J. Cepeda	R. Cepeda
8:30 AM	Fr. Namiotka	Celine Len	B. Massey	D. Miller	Witts
11:00 AM	Fr. Namiotka	Celine Julie	D. Staton	C. Musso	



This is our last Sunday of classes for 2021-2022 year. It was a challenging year, with constant adaptations to be made with COVID., but also getting adjusted to rooms, books, real teachers/catechists and students, and a Sunday morning time, following a year of virtual Sunday meetings. But we learned a lot even in our bundle of challenges, We are all ready for a break and hoping for a much better 2022-2023 year. But we are not taking a break from practicing the FAITH. We speak about real news and fake news. This has always been the case, especially when the news carriers were just “news criers” and the news got modified from town to town. But **with JESUS the news is always real, and clear. “Love one another as I love YOU; treat others as you wish to be treated; whatsoever you do to the least of human beings you do to me.” Let us not find excuses for failing to be truly Christians and Catholic. A few things to remember:** Parents are the primary educators and formators of their children. Thus, praying as a family, teaching and living moral lives, attending MASS every week, is indeed the task of the parents and family. But the Parish has the task to catechize, prepare for the sacraments, help parents to renew their knowledge of the FAITH. If it takes a village to raise a child, it takes the Parish to form a child in the Faith and each family is a part of the Parish. May we all feel united in JESUS, in the Eucharist in the Fatherly LOVE GOD has for each of us.



Fifth Sunday of Easter

“As I have loved you, so you also should love one another.” ~John 13:34

Here’s a tiny detail to notice in this story from the Last Supper. **Jesus issues the love commandment after Judas leaves the room. The spirit of self-interest must depart before the command of love can be heard and take root in the community of faith.**



Bill and Evonne Turner received a special blessing from Father Ed as they celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary. *Congratulations* Bill and Evonne!



Knights of Columbus Recruitment Drive is being held this weekend at all Masses. Interested? Ask a Knight!

**Blessed Edmund 25th Anniversary Celebration
Wednesday, May 25, 2022
5-7PM
Call 856-424-3063 to RSVP**